

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 PM-04 L-03 NSC-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 EB-07 CIEP-01 /077 W

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R 151200Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7945

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11611

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF ET SO FR

SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE ON TFAI- STRAWS IN THE WIND

REF: A. STATE 258957 B. MOGADISCIO 1506 C. ADDIS 13290 (NOTAL)

1. REFTELS CONCERNED EXTENT OF ARAB LEAGUE SUPPORT
FOR SOMALI AMBITIONS IN TFAI.

2. WE HAVE OBTAINED ARABIC TEXT OF ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL
RESOLUTION OF OCTOBER 20, ENTITLED "INDEPENDENCE OF
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SOMALI COAST." TEXT OF OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH ACCORDS

WITH THAT PROVIDED REF C,I.E. MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED LAST APRIL IS REVIVED TO RESUME EFFORTS ON BEHALF INDEPENDENCE OF THE TERRITORY UNDER MAJORITY RULE, "ON CONDITION THAT IT TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION" VIEWS EXPRESSED BY HEAD SOMALI DEL AND DISCUSSIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

3. THIS MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE CONSISTED OF KUWAIT, JORDAN, ALGERIA, AND LIBYA. GOK FONMIN SABAH AL-AHMAD, THE CHAIRMAN, HAD CONVERSATIONS ON SUBJECT WITH GOF IN PARIS THIS SUMMER.

4. AS EMBASSY MOGADISCIO HAS POINTED OUT (REF B), EXTENSION OF SOMALI TERRITORY NORTH TO BAB AL-MANDEB WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE WELCOMED BY ALL OF SOMALIA'S ARAB LEAGUE PARTNERS. NEVERTHELESS, OUR SOUNDINGS WITHIN ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARIAT DO NOT SUGGEST THAT THERE HAS BEEN MUCH REAL CONCERN ACTUALLY EXPRESSED ON THAT SCORE. WHAT DOES ENGAGE INTEREST OF LEADING ARAB STATES IS NECESSITY OF KEEPING ON GOOD SIDE OF FRANCE, WHOSE IMPORTANCE AS ARMS SUPPLIER AND COMMERCIAL TRADING PARTNER CONTINUES INCREASE IN ME. AL POLITICAL DIRECTOR, FOR EXAMPLE, SAID RECENTLY TO EMBOFF THAT LAST THING ARAB LEAGUE WANTS IS TO UNNECESSARILY ANTAGONIZE "OUR DEAR FRENCH FRIENDS". IN HIS VIEW, GENERAL FEELING AMONG MEMBER STATES REFLECTS CLASSIC ARAB DIPLOMATIC WISHFUL THINKING; ARAB LEAGUE WILL MAKE LOW KEY EFFORTS TO PROMOTE SELF-DETERMINATION, TAKING CARE NOT TO OFFEND FRANCE; WHEN FREE REFERENDUM TAKES PLACE, HOPE IS TFAI WILL VOTE TO JOIN SOMALIA.

5. WE WONDER, HOWEVER, IF EGYPT WOULD, IN FACT, BE PREPARED ACCEPT SITUATION WHERE BAB AL-MANDEB CONTROLLED BY PDRY AND SOMALIA, THEREBY PROVIDING TO USSR NEW INCREMENT OF POLITICAL LEVERAGE OVER ACCESS TO RED SEA. LOGICALLY, EGYPT COULD BE EXPECTED TO BALK AT SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, BUT AS YET WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE THAT CAIRO IS PAYING MUCH ATTENTION TO

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TFAI. GOE IS, OF COURSE, EXPENDING CONSIDERABLE DIPLOMATIC ENERGY ON WEENING PDRY AWAY FROM SOVIET ORBIT, SO FAR WITHOUT ANY SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS.
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